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Each chapter has a basic format that is commendable—a stimulating picture or cartoon, central concepts, key issues, some evidence, a conclusion, and an interview with a famous sociologist or other personage. Those who admire gimmicks will find much to feed on in this text. But I believe the student will need considerable help in relating and integrating the juicy intellectual fragments this book contains.

A teachers manual contains test questions and references for each chapter. The questions are mainly factual and essentially nonintellectual. The student's manual is a curious batch of fill-ins in essay form, plus some of the same multiple-choice questions found in the teacher's manual. Finally, the *Encyclopedia of Sociology* is a dubiously useful supplement, although it contains a fair range of items on sociological concepts, methods, and biographies, plus the inevitable profusion of photographs. (Unfortunately, the photo for Louis Wirth is *not* Louis Wirth.)

For about \$20 these books are neither a bargain nor an effective use of student funds. The challenging but intricate problems of conveying an intelligible sociological viewpoint, with a solid intellectual and empirical framework, cannot be reduced to marketing techniques designed to sell soap and cigarettes.

ALVIN BOSKOFF

Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia

The Tennessee Valley Authority. By Marguerite Owen. New York, N.Y.: Praeger Publishers, 1973. Pp. x, 275. \$9.50

Marguerite Owen has written as part of a series on government agencies a history and a work of love and affection. Ms. Owen served as TVA's Washington, D.C., repre-

sentative from the agency's inception in 1933 until her retirement in 1966. Her professional connection with TVA provided the author with a unique vantage point from which to view the development of the Tennessee Valley as well as a sense of mission. Her 33 years of devotion to the idea and substance of TVA are displayed on nearly every page. The heroes of Ms. Owen's story are Senator George Norris, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and the legislation that created the public corporation in the heady atmosphere of the New Deal's first 100 days.

The author adequately covers the main features of the TVA story including Senator Norris' struggle to keep Muscle Shoals out of private hands, Roosevelt's patronage, and the early attacks from private power interests. The dispute between the two Morgans and Lilienthal, Senator McKellar's efforts to bring TVA under closer congressional scrutiny, and later efforts in the Eisenhower administration to emasculate the agency are all treated as a series of contests endangering a dynamic experiment under constant siege from short-sighted and malevolent private interests. Diplomatically, the author professes ignorance of the motivation of some of TVA's critics and of the failure of the United States to emulate TVA's success in other regions of the country. Such professions suggest the author decided to take an easy course in dealing with TVA critics and dismiss them as beyond the grasp of reasonable men.

TVA's accomplishments, which are many and substantial, are described within the context of the provisions of the TVA's enabling legislation. Failures and criticism, however, while noted, receive scant attention. Embarrassing issues such as TVA's easy acquiescence to southern racial policies are ignored. Busy exalting TVA's independent status, the author gives little consideration to legitimate questions of congressional and executive responsibility. Nevertheless, the author has provided a readable, accurate account of TVA's history, structure and function.

THOMAS R. WESSEL

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